

Softball team sweeps doubleheader from Green River

Coach credits improving defense as key

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

The Clackamas softball team played only two scheduled games last week due to the ongoing rainy weather, but the Lady Cougars made the most of the short schedule, sweeping Green River CC in a doubleheader April 30 on the Cougar diamond.

In the first game, the Cougars rode the bat of Holly Rahn and the arm of Jennifer Hefflinger to shutout GRCC 5-0. Rahn went 2 for 3 at the plate, driving in two runs, while Hefflinger continued her hot pitching of late, throwing a one-hit complete game.

"We played really, really well," commented Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "Hefflinger is the best pitcher around right now. She hasn't given up an earned run in over a month, and except for two rough outings early in the season, she has her earned run average down under one run per game. She is just throwing outstanding right now, and it could not have come at a better time for us."

In the second game, Tracy Parnell and Cindy Vance each went 2 for 3, with Parnell knocking in two runs and Vance driving in one, as the Cougars defeated Green River 3-1.

Becky Cordill had a solid game on the mound, giving up seven hits, walking one and striking out one in running her record on the season to 4-1.

"Our defense is finally reaching the level that it needs to be for us to be a contender," Fiskum said. "We had no errors in the second game and only two on the day. I think that I can live with two errors in 14 innings of play."

"The biggest key in this is that our defense up the middle is improving all the time. We have people playing in new positions this season and it has taken time for them to adjust," Fiskum commented. "Kari Gunderson probably made the defensive play of the year in the second game, when she dove to catch a sinking line drive to rob the opposing batter of a triple that would have probably turned the game around. It

was a real special play, a very professional play, and it is the type of play that we are now getting from everyone. I'm almost happy to say that defense was the highlight of the day."

Due to the rainy weather lately, Clackamas now has nine doubleheaders left to play and only three weeks left to play them in. This doesn't seem to bother the coach any, however. The team has other sights in mind.

"Our girls are really hungry for Lower Columbia (LBCC defeated CCC in a doubleheader two weeks ago)," Fiskum said. "We really want to show them that we can beat them and give them something to think about once the conference tournament comes about."

Clackamas traveled to Longview to meet Lower Columbia in a doubleheader yesterday, and scores were not available at press time. The Cougars are scheduled to meet Grays Harbor CC in a doubleheader on the Cougar diamond Saturday beginning at 2 p.m.



Photo by Frank Jordan

Coach Paul Fiskum gives his team instructions between a pair of games Friday. The women went on to win both games.

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Photo by Anjanette Booth

A baseball player fires a pitch in a recent practice. The team traveled to Linn-Benton Community College in Albany today.

The way we see it

A look inside the NBA playoffs

by Jeff Kemp
Staff Writer

If you're looking for the Portland Trail Blazers to make a run for the National Basketball Association title this year, don't hold your breath. Those faltering boys in ebony and scarlet stumbled not only in Utah, but through the rest of the regular season as well. Sightings of Clyde Drexler are becoming as rare as big foot and not even the holy one who sports a game halo, Uncle Clifty, can save them. Even though the Blazers have found refuge in the Finals two of the last three years, this year they have a Duck that's gone south for the winter and an often injured Jerome Kersey whose knees are no longer allowing him to jump through the roof. So all you die-hard Blazermaniacs will have to wait yet another year because green and gold are the colors that will be flying high. Yes, our cousins from the north, the Seattle Supersonics, will be popping the champagne corks and wearing the latest fashion in rings this June.

by Jason Eck
Staff Writer

With the National Basketball Association playoffs underway, fans in The Rose City are waiting to smell the sweet aroma of victory that an NBA Championship will provide. Nobody said it is going to be easy, but the Blazers have the experience of being in the Finals and should arrive there this year after putting away Western Conference foes San Antonio, Phoenix and Houston. Clyde Drexler will come back to wreak havoc on his opponents and other veterans will provide key play in the Blazers' quest for a title. Houston and Hakeem Olajuwon will push the Blazers to the Conference Finals' seventh game, be-

fore Portland returns to the Finals and makes its championship dreams a reality.

THESE PREDICTIONS WERE MADE PRIOR TO THE PLAYOFFS

The first round of the playoffs may seem routine at first glance, but it offers some great match-ups.

Western Conference

1) Phoenix vs. 8) L.A. Lakers
Two thumbs up for the Suns. The Lakers could give the Suns a good fight, but Barkley will come through.

4) Portland vs. 5) San Antonio
Two thumbs up for the Blazers in four. Clap now.

2) Houston vs. 7) L.A. Clippers
Two thumbs up for the Rockets. The series will go four games and not because of Danny Manning's whining.

3) Seattle vs. 6) Utah
Kemp: thumbs up for the Sonics. Seattle will dunk the Jazz like a chocolate éclair. Eck: thumbs up for the Jazz, who will steal one in Seattle.

Eastern Conference

1) New York vs. 8) Indiana
Two thumbs are pointed toward the sky for the Knicks who will shut down Reggie Miller and the Pacers' hopes for the second round.

4) Boston vs. 5) Charlotte
Give to thumbs up for the young boys in teal, who will sting the wingless Celtics in five.

2) Chicago vs. 7) Atlanta
Two thumbs up for the two-time champions from the windy city. Eck: five games. Kemp: three games.

3) Cleveland vs. 6) New Jersey
Two thumbs up for the Cavaliers. Behind 3-point champion Mark Price, Drazen Petrovic will definitely look like a foreigner in a four game series.

Self-Realization

JEANINE WOKE UP IN A COLD SWEAT SHE REMEMBERED GOING TO A PARTY AND GETTING SMASHED OUT OF HER MIND. THE QUESTION IS: WHO IS THIS PERSON IN HER BATHROOM?

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How did I get myself into this mess?
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Interviews: Tuesday, May 11, 1993

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